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10th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter continues to find you and your families well. I would firstly like to thank you for all the effort and hard work you have been putting into the education of your child/ren. We have been in lockdown for seven weeks now and we have all had to adapt to our new roles and ways of working. Whilst we have not been at school, staff have been working at home remotely as well as on site, caring for the children of keyworkers.

I truly understand how challenging it can be to motivate a child to work when they would rather be outside playing, and that sometimes it will feel like such an uphill battle, but please can I encourage you to persevere with what you can, making it fun and rewarding, as it will make such a difference for your child/ren when they return to school.

The new work packs that the teachers have prepared are now ready to access using the links below, as before. Hopefully there will be plenty to interest your child/ren and will help to sustain their interest and enthusiasm during the next four weeks. The teachers have also written letters to their classes to encourage them to work hard and do their best at home. If you have not yet accessed the work pack for your child/ren, please use the relevant link below:

Early Years

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uc02fp1w42trccz/AACugg8DbmYE1yr0i9wWAv33a?dl=0>

Key Stage 1

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/n9kbu529d4uf4g8/AAAbua9NxMa8iZtVr9I3JgDYa?dl=0>

Lower Key Stage 2

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r3p3d1ir7c7w6rx/AAA8QVF4_29RrBKifrFcMiFnA?dl=0

Upper Key Stage 2

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kb7dnk9wcceq8vu/AADPBfR49f_bQPNk7Pe6rpbWa?dl=0

Please try to establish a good routine, doing some maths and English each day as well as reading every day too. These are the most vital skills to keep practising during this period to help your child/ren be ready for when schools reopen fully again. You can download the work and print off or simply use the paper or exercise book that was given out in the pack at the beginning of the school closure period.

Alternatively, if you are having difficulties accessing the work, school can print it off and arrange delivery to your home. If you require any assistance, please contact the school using the office email admin@castle-park.cumbria.sch.uk and we will arrange this for you.





The Department for Education (DfE) have produced some very useful guidance to support parents who are educating their child/ren at home. It is **very** helpful and certainly worth reading, and can be accessed using the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Please continue to look after your mental as well as physical health. It is important to ensure that children take some physical exercise every day where they are able and doing this as a family can be especially positive. Guidance and support for mental health can also be accessed on our school website through the COVID-19 Updates tab on the Home Page.

Castle Park School continues to be open from 8.30am - 4.15pm every weekday, including the bank holidays, offering childcare to the children of keyworkers at our school. If you are a keyworker requiring childcare, please contact the school using the office email address (admin@castle-park.cumbria.sch.uk) and we will support you through this difficult time. As a school we feel it is of the utmost importance to support parents, who have to work each day as part of the COVID-19 response, by providing safe childcare with staff the children know.

I am sure you watched the Prime Minister's broadcast last night when he indicated that some parents who can safely socially distance in the workplace, may choose to return to work. However, where they have children who require childcare, it is important that you are aware that we have not been instructed by the DfE to change the childcare arrangements that we currently have. Therefore, to keep us all safe, I reiterate the national message from Government and Public Health England. **If it is possible for your child to be cared for at home, then they should be.** It is crucial that we all do everything we can to limit the spread of COVID-19 and enable keyworkers to care for those who are sick and for other key services to continue. We all have our part to play and I am sure that you will act responsibly and not ask us to care for your child/ren when this could be done at home. If we are directed otherwise, I will write and inform you of any new instructions from government.

Families with children in receipt of free school meals will continue to receive vouchers for Morrisons on Fridays, delivered by staff volunteers.

As email and the website are the most efficient way for me to keep in touch with you, please look out for prompt text messages and keep checking your emails and the website regularly for updates.

In the meantime, keep up the great work at home and keep well. The staff are very grateful for everything you are doing at home to support your child's education.

With best wishes,
Mrs H F Richardson
Headteacher



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